

BAY-DELTA PUBLIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE

WATERSHED SUBCOMMITTEE

- DRAFT -

Meeting Summary

Meeting Date/Location: Friday, February 21, 2003
10:00 AM to 3:00 PM
Jones & Stokes
2600 V Street
Sacramento, CA

Meeting Attendees: See Attachment A

Meeting Handouts: See Attachment B

Welcome and Introductions

Martha Davis, Watershed Subcommittee Co-chair, began the meeting with a welcome and round of introductions of all meeting participants (see Attachment A).

Watershed Program Updates

John Lowrie, Watershed Program Manager, provided the subcommittee with updates from the California Bay-Delta Authority and the Watershed Program.

- *Integration of CALFED Elements*

Since the inception of the CALFED Bay-Delta Program, the various program elements have generally been run independently of each other, facing the usual problems associated with integration of differing disciplines, along with individual program time and budgetary constraints. However, there has been a recent effort to integrate the various program elements in mutually beneficial ways (especially amongst the Water Use Efficiency, Ecosystem Restoration, Watershed, and Drinking Water Quality programs) or at least to collaborate more closely. There have been some discussions about the possibility of a multi-program demonstration project.

- *Status of Watershed Program Funding*

Current year funding is coming from multiple sources, including the State General Fund, Proposition 50, and Proposition 13. Up until this year, CALFED was in charge of Watershed Program implementation, but now with the California Bay-Delta Authority in place, implementation of the Watershed Program will be conducted by the following

agencies: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA), State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB), and California Department of Water (DWR). The Watershed Program staff is currently pushing to have the Watershed Program goals and objectives accepted by those implementing agencies. It is also important to remember that these management agencies are implementing the Watershed Program *Plan*, not a new watershed program.

- *California Bay-Delta Authority*

The Authority has begun its Board appointments. A selection summary will be given once the appointments are complete.

Developing a Statewide Watershed Strategic Plan

- *Vision for an Integrated Watershed Program – Watershed MOU*

Three guest speakers, Anne Baker from Fran Pavley's office, Luree Stetson from the Resources Agency, and Beth Jines from CalEPA, spoke to the subcommittee about Assembly Bill (AB) 2534 (known as the Pavley Bill) and its vision for the development of a statewide watershed program. The bill itself is not merely a funding mechanism for Proposition 40, but rather a statement of legislative intent, combining the goals of both CalEPA and the Resources Agency into a policy that will guide agency actions and interactions. An interagency Memorandum of Understanding is currently being composed, which will specify how the Resources Agency and CalEPA will coordinate and integrate state watershed programs to fund watershed activities. All watershed programs implemented through CalEPA and the Resources Agency will be affected. The guest speakers pointed out that this will not be an easy process, as it requires culture change in multiple agencies, but it will ultimately result in greater efficiency.

Beth Jines then asked for input from the Watershed Subcommittee on the proposed Steering Committee that will stem from the MOU. A subcommittee member pointed out that the Watershed Subcommittee works so well because there is no structure other than the two co-chairs, which allows the meetings to be very interactive. Another member commented that changing the cultures of the agencies will be difficult, but the key is to get individuals within the agencies to know each other – once they start talking, they will realize how much they have in common with each other, how similar their goals are, and that the work they do does indeed concern watersheds.

One meeting attendee asked what would happen if the MOU does not work. Anne Baker responded that if the MOU does not work, then Proposition 40 funds will not be allocated - it needs to work.

- *Proposition 40 MOU – Key Concepts*

Martha Davis closed out the MOU discussion with a list of suggestions for MOU goals. Those included interagency communication, a coordinated watershed funding process, an open public advisory process with a focus on stakeholder input, and inclusion of all

California watersheds, not just those in the CALFED scope. She asked the subcommittee to review her handout and send any comments to Beth Jines, bjines@calepa.ca.gov, (916) 322-7190.

- *California Watershed Management Strategic Plan*

A separate effort from the Watershed MOU, the Watershed Management Strategic Plan stems from the AB 2117 report released by the Governor's Office last year entitled "Addressing the Need to Protect California's Watersheds: Working with Local Partnerships" and is being spearheaded by CalEPA and the Resources Agency. Although its creators hope to someday merge the Strategic Plan with the Watershed MOU, at present they are independent efforts. The goal of the Strategic Plan is to set down the roles and responsibilities for agencies and their supporting organizations (Departments, Boards, Offices) that have watershed management duties in California to increase their effectiveness in addressing watershed issues and working with stakeholders and local groups. Renee Hoyos handed out the notes from the discussion of the Watershed Management Strategic Plan Draft Mission, Vision, Operating Principles, Goals, Objectives, Strategies, and Initiatives, which was discussed at the January Subcommittee meeting. Any additional comments should be directed to Renee Hoyos (renee.hoyos@resources.ca.gov).

Presentation of CALFED-Funded Watershed Project

Bob Zlomke of the Napa County Resource Conservation District gave the Subcommittee a presentation on the CALFED Watershed Program-funded project "Stewardship Support and Watershed Assessment in the Napa River Watershed". Their goals are to create watershed management plans to meet the needs articulated by Napa River Watershed stewardship groups (as opposed to regulatory agencies), based on watershed assessment data. The Study Plans were completed in June of last year, and the initial results of the assessment came in last November. They plan to have the Final Technical Reports done by March of 2003, and the Final Management Plans (all coalesced into one document) completed and out to the Stewardships by mid-2003. Mr. Zlomke shared some of the side benefits of the project, including increased community awareness (about ¼ to ½ of the landowners are participants at any given time) and interest from the Regional Board.

During the question-and-answer session, Mr. Zlomke explained that the project contributes to the goals of the CALFED Program by creating a plan to better the water quality of the Napa River, the second-largest tributary to the San Francisco Bay. A subcommittee member asked who would be approving the Management Plan. Mr. Zlomke reported that Napa County would be approving it, but not before some CEQA issues are worked out.

2003 RFP Process

Bill Campbell of the State Water Resources Control Board announced that this year's Request for Proposal (RFP) process will be organized differently, with a "one-step" process in which applicants submit a modified proposal that is longer than the old concept proposals and shorter than the full proposals. The details will then be worked out in the contracting stage.

There was a consensus among Subcommittee members that the "two-step" (concept proposal and full proposal) process would be much better than the proposed "one-step". Those in the group who had experience with contracting pointed out that working out the details during the contracting phase could draw out the contracting process itself to more than a year. They pointed out that the types of groups who apply for Watershed Program funds (local groups, etc.) do not usually have the resources to submit an initial full proposal with no idea whether it will be funded or not – the interaction and feedback loop allowed by the "two-step" process is invaluable to them. Any additional comments on this process should be directed to Barbara Evoy (evoyb@swrcb.ca.gov).

Next Meeting

Ms. Davis adjourned the meeting and announced that the next meeting would be held on Friday, March 21, 2003.

Attachment A

MEETING PARTICIPANTS

Name	Affiliation
Ames, Laurel	California Watershed Network
Arias, Y. Meriah	CalEPA
Arnold, Carol	Contra Costa Resource Conservation District
Bagwell, Bonnie	American River Watershed Group
Bowker, Dennis	CA Bay-Delta Authority – Watershed Program
Boyd, Dick	Meeting Participant
Bratcher, Tricia	CA Department of Fish and Game
Brodie, John	San Joaquin County Resource Conservation District
Brown, Karen	CA Department of Water Resources San Joaquin District
Cady, Casey Walsh	CA Department of Food and Agriculture
Campbell, Bill	State Water Resource Control Board
Campbell, Lynn	Yuba Watershed Council
Chadima, Carole	Middle Yuba River Citizens League
Clayburgh, Joan	Sierra Nevada Alliance
Coulter, Ken	State Water Resource Control Board
Crooks, Bill	City of Sacramento
Dahms, Dick	Meeting Participant
Davis, Martha	Inland Empire Utilities Agency
Drake, Nettie	Western Resource Conservation District/MFG, Inc.
Phil Dunn	EDAW
Elliott, David J.	Environmental Micro Analysis Inc.
Evoy, Barbara	State Water Resources Control Board
Garver, Lyn	Kings River Conservation District
Gresham, Rich	Sacramento River Watershed Program
Heiman, Dennis	Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board
Horney, Cindy	Glenn County Resource Conservation District
Hoyos, Renee	CA Resources Agency
Kiger, Luana	Natural Resource Conservation Service
Klasson, Mick	Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency
Knecht, Mary Lee	Jones & Stokes
Laychek, Eugenia	CA Bay-Delta Authority
Lorenzato, Stefan	CA Department of Water Resources
Lowrie, John	California Bay-Delta Authority
Lunt, Tina	Sloughhouse Resource Conservation District
Marshall, Paul	State Water Resource Control Board
Martin, Sara	Jones & Stokes
McGhee, Ken	CA Bay-Delta Authority
Ramirez, Tim	CA Resources Agency
Rush, Andrew	CA Department of Conservation
Smith, Lynda	Metropolitan Water District
Stetson, Luree	CA Resources Agency
Swearingen, Vieva	Cottonwood Watershed Group
Warner, Holly	Upper Merced River Watershed

MEETING MATERIALS

- Meeting Agenda
- AB 2534 (Pavley Bill), Article 5
- Developing a Statewide Integrated Watershed Program: Key Concepts for the Proposed
- Interagency Memorandum of Understanding
- Notes on the January 17 Discussion of the Watershed Management Strategic Plan